

method was applied. MTT assay is dependent on the cellular reduction of MTT by the mitochondrial dehydrogenase of viable cells to a blue formazan product which can be measured spectrophotometrically. 2×10^3 3LL or B-16 cells, 2×10^4 MEF(mouse embryo fibroblast) cells were inoculated in each well of flatbottomed 96-well microtiter plates in 0.18 ml of culture medium to which 0.02 ml of $10 \times$ concentrated drug or medium was added. On the 4th day, the media from the plates was aspirated completely and 50 μ l of the MTT solution (1 mg/ml) was added to each well and incubated at 37 °C for a further 4 h. Following the incubation, to majority of the MTT solution was aspirated, in order not to disturb the formazan crystals, and 50 μ l DMSO was added to each well and plates were placed on a plate shaker for 5 min and absorbance was read at 570 nm with a enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay reader.²⁰

Biological activities of polymers synthesized in this study expressed by ID₅₀ are summarized in Table 2. The ID₅₀ values of DIVEMA, AADHP and AMDHP for normal mouse embryo fibroblasts were 765, 1587, and 1768 μ g/ml respectively. There were no striking differences between ID₅₀ values for normal and neoplastic cells; the ID₅₀ values in most cases, *in vitro* ranged from 1300 to 2500 μ g/ml. The anticancer effects of DIVEMA *in vivo* have been speculated to be mediated via a macrophage system²¹⁻²⁴ which cannot be reflected by simple direct cytotoxicity *in vitro*, as shown by this experiment. Thus these results also support the findings reported by others that the cytotoxic activity of DIVEMA can not be differentiated between normal and neoplastic cells *in vitro*. Studies on the anticancer effect of DIVEMA and the copolymers synthesized in this study *in vivo* are currently in progress.

Acknowledgement. This work was supported by a grant from the Korea Science and Engineering Foundation.

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Catalytic Effects of Anion-Exchange Resins on the Ethylation of Ethyl 2-Ethylacetoacetate

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Synthetic polymers have been extensively employed as catalysts for organic reactions. The catalysis by the polymers may be attributed to the increased effective concentrations of reactants bound on the polymer,¹ effective pH on the poly-

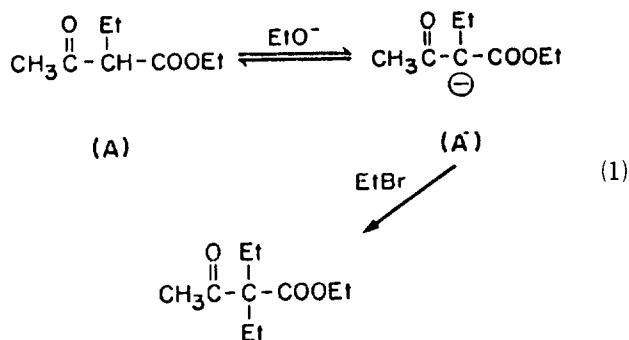
mer domain which is different from that in the bulk medium,² or the hydrophobicity created on the surface of the polymer.² In addition, ion-exchange resins catalyze some organic reactions by acting as heterogeneous sources of acids and bases.³

Table 1. Ethylation of Carbanion A⁻ with EtBr in the Presence of Various Anion-Exchange Resins^a

Dowex resin ^b		yield (%) for ethylation of A ^{-d}
type	active group	
1X1-100	I	20
1X2-100	I	46
1X4-50	I	24
1X8-50	I	22
2X8-50	II	4
WGR-2	III	4
SBR-OH	IV	95 ^c
no resin added		3

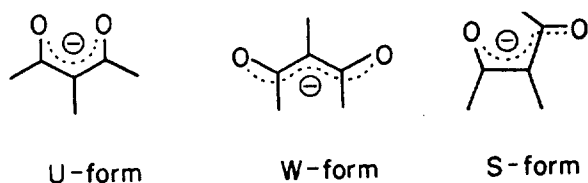
^aReactions were carried out at 25 °C with 0.1 g A⁻, 3 equivalent EtBr, and 2 g resin in 6 ml 1:5 (v/v) EtOH-toluene. ^bThe resins differ in the degree of cross-linkage and dry mass. Detailed information may be obtained from the Sigma catalog. ^cI: Ph-CH₂-N(CH₃)₃⁺Cl⁻, II: Ph-CH₂-N(CH₃)₂(CH₂CH₂OH)⁺Cl⁻, III: Ph-CH₂-N(CH₃)₂H⁺Cl⁻, IV: Ph-CH₂-N(CH₃)₃⁺OH⁻. ^dThe O-ethylated product was not formed. ^eThe yield was 50% and 70% when the amount of added resin was 0.5 g and 1.0 g, respectively.

We have made various attempts to develop catalytic systems for the alkylation of sterically hindered carbanions.⁴ In this paper, we report the catalytic action of commercially available anion-exchange resins on the ethylation (Eq. 1) of the carbanion derived from ethyl 2-ethylacetoacetate (A) with ethyl bromide to produce ethyl 2,2-diethylacetoacetate.



As summarized in Table 1, the yield for the ethylation of A⁻ was considerably improved by the addition of anion-exchange resins.⁵

Like other nonrigid β-dicarbonyl anions, A⁻ would exist in three major conformations: U-, W- and S- shapes.⁶ Examination of a space-filling model indicates that the anionic carbon of A⁻ is most exposed in the W- conformation and least exposed in the U- conformation to the attack of external reagents. Association of the carbanion with a metal ion would lower the nucleophilicity of the anionic center. In addition, the metal association prefers the U-form, decreasing the amount of the more productive W- or S- form.



Previously, ethylation of the carbanions derived from ethyl acetoacetate or A were studied in various solvents.⁶ Thus, the yield for the ethylation of A⁻ (5% in tetrahydrofuran (THF)) was much smaller than that of the carbanion (83% in THF) of ethyl acetoacetate. This was ascribed to the much greater steric hindrance imposed on the carbanionic center in A⁻.⁴ It was also found that the yield for the ethylation of A⁻ was noticeably improved when dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) was used as the solvent (80% yield) or when a crown ether (15-crown-5) was added to the reaction mixture (100% yield in DMSO and 71% yield in THF).⁴ By selectively interacting with cations, DMSO and the crown ether would increase the effective radii of the cations and, thus, lower their charge densities.⁴ Consequently, the electrostatic effects exerted by the counter-cation on carbanion A⁻ would be weakened, leading to the enhanced nucleophilicity of the carbanion. Moreover, dissociation of the counter-cation from A⁻ would increase the concentration of more reactive W- or S- conformation, relieving the severe steric hindrance imposed on the reaction site.

The catalytic effects (Table 1) of anion-exchange resins can be also explained in terms of the weakened electrostatic interaction of anion A⁻ with the counter-cation. Anion A⁻ dissolved in the solution would be attracted onto the cationic surfaces of the anion-exchange resins by electrostatic interaction. Since the cationic sites on the resins are alkylated ammonium ions while the counter-cation of A⁻ in the bulk medium is sodium ion, the charge density of the counter-cation would be reduced when anion A⁻ is adsorbed on the resins. Consequently, A⁻ would become partly naked and acquire conformational freedom on the surface of the resins as in DMSO or in the presence of a crown ether.

The yield is considerably greater when the anion of the anion-exchange resin is hydroxide ion instead of chloride ion (Table 1). This may be taken to indicate that the adsorption of anion A⁻ on the polymer surface is inhibited by chloride ion, suggesting the greater affinity of chloride ion to the cationic polymer compared with hydroxide ion.

Anion-exchange resin types 2X8-50 and WGR-2 do not exert catalytic effects in contrast to the other resins. The hydroxyl group present in the quaternary ammonium ion of resin 2X8-50 can interact with A⁻ through hydrogen bonding. This could abolish the catalytic effects of the quaternary ammonium ions. The cationic site in resin WGR-2 is derived from a tertiary amine and contains a proton. This proton would be abstracted by the carbanionic center of a bound A⁻, thus quenching the nucleophilicity of A⁻.

The catalytic effects observed in the present study are attributable to the production of naked carbanions on the surface of anion-exchange resins containing quaternary ammonium ions. The catalytic feature disclosed by the present investigation may be applied to the synthesis of many other substances.

Acknowledgement. This work was supported by a grant (1988) from Korea Research Foundation.

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distribution for ethylation of A⁻ with EtBr conducted under various conditions were measured by ¹H nmr and gas chromatography as reported previously.⁴ The progress of ethylation was checked daily for up to 5-7 days, and it was found that the maximum yield was attained within 3 days. The yield and product distributions were not affected significantly by the speed of stirring of the reaction mixture.

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Computer Graphics / Molecular Mechanics Studies on Non-Classical β -Lactam Structures*

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Received January 4, 1989

In the preceding paper¹ we described calculation of geometries of several representative β -lactam antibiotics by computer graphics and molecular mechanics (CG/MM) energy minimization, and found reasonable agreements between the calculated geometries and the X-ray crystal structures. The discrepancies in the compared geometries between the calculated and the X-ray structures were attributed to the crystal packing effects. It was concluded that the CG/MM energy minimization procedures based on the MM-2 and AMBER force fields could generate reasonable β -lactam geometries, especially in terms of the molecular parameters considered to be critical for the biological activities, *e.g.*, the pyramidal character of the amide nitrogen and the Cohen distance.²

In the recent years there have been a number of attempts to design non-classical β -lactams or their structural analogs.³⁻¹⁴ Therefore, it seemed very interesting to examine the possibility of predicting the critical molecular parameters of some of these and other hypothetical compounds by using the CG/MM method. Thus, we have selected a number of novel β -lactam analogs, *i.e.* compounds **1-8**, and produced calculated structures by the procedures previously described.¹ The characteristic molecular parameters of the calculated geometries of compounds **1** through **8** are listed in Table 1.

The γ -lactam **1** was reported in the patent literature to have antibacterial activities.³ The calculated molecular structure of **1** shows a substantial degree of pyramidal character (335.6 and 306.0°) and a reasonable Cohen distance (3.485 and 3.384 Å), thus meeting the minimum structural requirements for biological activity. Baldwin, *et al.* synthesized the phenoxyacetyl derivative of the γ -lactam **3**, and found it to have no antibiotic activity. The X-ray crystallographic studies of the corresponding *t*-butyl ester showed the sum of the

Table 1. Molecular Parameters for "Non-classical β -Lactams"

Compound	Bond angle around N (Deg)		Cohen Distance (Å)*	
	MM-2	AMBER	MM-2	AMBER
1	335.6	306.0	3.485	3.384
2	341.9	327.5	3.112	3.080
3	341.1	325.0	3.967	4.001
4	355.7	344.2	3.098	2.887
5	357.6	352.8	3.441	3.439
6	357.6	354.0	3.115	3.030
7	360.0	356.7	2.995	2.789
8	360.0	356.5	2.980	2.784

*Distance between the oxygen atom of the β -lactam amide functionality and the carbon atom of the carboxy group.

angles around nitrogen was 326° and the Cohen distance 4.1 Å.^{4,5} The calculated structure of compound **3** also indicated a pyramidal lactam nitrogen (341.1 and 325.0°) and the Cohen distance being a bit too long (3.967 and 4.001 Å) to show the bioactivity. Based on the calculated molecular parameters, however, the epimeric structure **2** may be predicted to have a more desirable Cohen distance (3.112 and 3.080 Å), and therefore to possess some biological activities.

Synthesis of the phenoxyacetyl derivative of compound **4** was reported to show "weak but real" antibacterial activity against both gram positive and gram negative bacteria.⁶ The calculated geometry indicates a low degree of pyramidal character (355.7 and 344.2°) and a low limit number (3.098 and 2.887 Å) of the desirable Cohen distance range (3.0-3.9 Å). The phenoxyacetyl derivative of structure **5** was reported to have a planar amide nitrogen and no antibacterial activity.^{7,8} The calculations show a reasonable Cohen distance (3.441 and 3.439 Å), but a virtually planar geometry around the amide nitrogen (357.6 and 352.8°) in accord with the experimental

* Dedicated to Professor A. Ian Scott on the occasion of his 60th birthday.